

What is claimed is:

1. An information management method wherein  
predetermined information stored in a predetermined area of a  
recording medium having medium-specific information is  
5 encrypted using said medium-specific information or a key  
generated therefrom and is derived outside said predetermined  
area.

2. The information management system of claim 1, wherein  
said recording medium comprises a first area storing said  
10 predetermined information and a second area different from said  
first area.

3. The information management method of claim 2, wherein  
said second area is a user-use area allowing writing and reading  
out of any information in accordance with external instructions  
15 and said first area is a secure area that is not subject to  
control by external instructions.

4. The information management method of claim 3, wherein  
any information stored in said second area is encrypted  
electronic data and predetermined information stored in said  
20 first area includes license information based on use rights for  
using said electronic data.

5. The information management method according to claim  
4, wherein said predetermined information is encrypted using  
said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom  
25 and is stored in said predetermined area.

6. The information management method of claim 5, wherein said predetermined information is encrypted using information specific to an apparatus that drives said recording medium or a key generated therefrom.

5        7. The information management method according to claim 6, wherein said encrypted predetermined information is stored in said second area.

8. The information management method of claim 7, wherein encrypted predetermined information stored in said second area  
10 is decrypted using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and the predetermined information stored in said first area is updated.

9. The information management method of claim 7, wherein, when said predetermined information is to be derived outside  
15 said first area, it is encrypted using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and information specific to an apparatus that drives said recording medium or a key generated therefrom.

10. The information management method of claim 9, wherein  
20 encrypted predetermined information stored in said second area is decrypted using information specific to an apparatus that drives said recording medium or a key generated therefrom and said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom, and predetermined information stored in said first area is  
25 updated.

11. The information management method according to claim 1, wherein said encrypted predetermined information is stored on a second recording medium different from said recording medium.

5 12. The information management method of claim 11, wherein encrypted predetermined information stored in said second recording medium is decrypted using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and predetermined information stored in said predetermined area is  
10 updated.

13. The information management method of claim 11, wherein, when said predetermined information is to be derived on said second recording medium, it is encrypted using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and  
15 information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium or a key generated therefrom.

14. The information management method of claim 13, wherein encrypted predetermined information stored in second recording medium is decrypted using information specific to an  
20 apparatus that drives said second recording medium or a key generated therefrom and said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom, and predetermined information stored in said predetermined area is updated.

15. The information management method according to claim  
25 1, wherein said medium-specific information can be

electronically obtained from said recording medium and is visually displayed on said recording medium.

16. The information management method according to claim 6, wherein information specific to an apparatus that drives said recording medium can be electronically obtained from said apparatus and is visually displayed on said apparatus.

17. The information management method according to claim 13, wherein information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium can be electronically obtained from said apparatus and is visually displayed on said apparatus.

18. An information management apparatus having medium-specific information, and comprising a user-use area allowing writing and reading out of any information in accordance with external instructions and a secure area that is not subject to control by external instructions, said information management apparatus managing information of a recording medium wherein license information based on use rights for any information stored in a user-use area is stored in a secure area, said information management apparatus comprising:

write and read out means writing any information to and reading any information from said user-use area; and

predetermined information deriving means encrypting predetermined information stored in said secure area using said

medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and deriving the same outside said secure area.

19. The information management apparatus of claim 18, wherein said encrypted license information is stored by said write and  
5 read out means in said user-use area.

20. The information management apparatus of claim 19, further comprising predetermined information update means decrypting said encrypted license information stored in said user-use area and updating license information stored in said  
10 secure area.

21. The information management apparatus according to claim 18, comprising apparatus-specific information, wherein said predetermined information deriving means encrypts said license information using said medium-specific information or  
15 a key generated therefrom and information specific to said apparatus or a key generated therefrom.

22. The information management apparatus of claim 21, further comprising predetermined information update means decrypting encrypted license information stored in said  
20 user-use area using information specific to said apparatus or a key generated therefrom and said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and updating license information stored in said secure area.

23. The information management apparatus of claim 18,  
25 wherein said predetermined information deriving means

transmits said encrypted license information to a second recording medium different from said recording medium.

24. The information management apparatus of claim 23, further comprising predetermined information update means  
5 decrypting encrypted license information stored in said second recording medium using said medium-specific information and updating license information stored in said secure area.

25. The information management apparatus of claim 23, wherein an apparatus that drives said second recording medium  
10 comprises apparatus-specific information and said predetermined information deriving means encrypts said license information using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium or a key generated  
15 therefrom.

26. The information management apparatus of claim 25, further comprising predetermined information update means decrypting encrypted license information stored in said second recording medium using information specific to an apparatus  
20 that drives said second recording medium or a key derived therefrom and said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom and updating license information stored in said secure area.